

## **Brigadier General Joseph A. Smith**

Brigadier General Joseph A. Smith assumed the duties as the Director of Army Safety and Commanding General, United States Army Combat Readiness Center, Fort Rucker, Alabama, on 20 June 2003.

From 1970 until he enlisted in the United States Army in 1973, Brigadier General Smith attended Western Kentucky University. In 1974, he returned to WKU under the "Green to Gold" program and completed both an undergraduate and Masters Program.



Commissioned in 1976 as a Second Lieutenant of Armor, Brigadier General Smith was then assigned as an Armor Platoon Leader with the 5th Battalion, 33rd Armor at Fort Knox, Kentucky. In 1978, he attended flight school with a follow-on assignment to the 1st Squadron, 17th Cavalry, 82d Airborne Division. He served in the "All American Division" as a Blues Platoon Leader, Aero-Rifle Platoon Commander, Troop Executive Officer, and Squadron S-4. In 1981, he attended the Armor Advanced Course with a follow-on assignment to the 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry, 101st Airborne Division (AASLT). He served with the "Screaming Eagles" as an Operations Officer, Squadron S-4, and Troop Commander. In 1985, he was assigned to the Military Science Department of the University of Utah. Brigadier General Smith commanded the 4-228th Aviation Battalion in Honduras and served 7 years with the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne). While with the "Night Stalkers," he performed the duties of Group Assistant S-3 for Operations, Company Commander, Regimental S-3 and Commander of TF 1-160. After the war college, he was assigned in July 1998 to Fort Bragg with United States Army Special Operations Command as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Special Operations Aviation. From June of 1999 to June 2001, he commanded the 10th Aviation Brigade Fort Drum, NY, and from June 2001 to July 2002, he was the Chief of Staff for the 10th Mountain Division and Coalition Task Force Mountain in Afghanistan. His most recent assignment was as the Assistant Division Commander for Support with the "All Americans" in the 82d Airborne Division.

BG Smith participated in Operation Just Cause in Panama, Operation Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia, Operation Joint Forge during SFOR 6 in Bosnia, two tours Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq.

He is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College and the US Army War College. His awards include the Legion of Merit with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with six Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Achievement Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Ribbon with 2 Bronze Service Stars, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with Bronze Service Star, Southwest Asia Service Medal with Bronze Service Star, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal and Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Army Overseas Service Ribbon, NATO Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medals from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, Joint Meritorious Unit Award with Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Meritorious Unit Award, Master Army Aviator Badge, Parachutist Badge, Air Assault badge and Foreign Jump Wings from the countries of Poland, Honduras and Australia.